

## ***From the Field***

**EPA's accomplishments are testament to the diligent work of its devoted workforce. Our 976 employees have spent, on average, more than a decade protecting and improving public health and the environment. We thought it appropriate to close with their thoughts . . . on where we've been . . . and how far we have to go.**

***The biggest challenge we faced in the past was:*** Establishing an "environmental conscience" - educating and controlling industrial polluters - teaching people that there is a connection between their everyday activities and water pollution - upgrading municipal sewage treatment plants - getting industry to comply with the laws - communicating risk to the public - ignorance.

***My greatest sense of accomplishment in protecting the environment is/has been:*** Seeing major air quality problems in New York City, like carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide, improve - helping to protect the Region's drinking water supplies - ending the discharge of raw sewage to the Hudson River - abating the discharge of groundwater contaminated with toxic pollutants to the Niagara River - taking an enforcement action against an egregious water polluter, forcing them to clean up their discharges - making a positive difference - sharing our 30 years of experience with our counterparts around the world who are now grappling with tough environmental issues - assisting residents with successful permanent relocation at an NPL site - the joy that I feel when every day people and children express their desire to protect the environment too.

***My greatest frustration in protecting the environment is/has been:*** People who do not see the link between the environment and public health - political pressures preventing environmental advancement - PCBs in the Hudson - the amount of time that it takes to get anything done - dealing with red tape - lack of resources.

***The greatest challenge we face in the future will be:*** Keeping the public interested in environmental protection - how we will manage our resources when the additional three billion people are born in the next 50 years - managing our precious resources to provide a healthy and sustainable earth for generations to come - regulating agricultural and feedlot water discharges - combined sewer overflows - habitat protection - urban sprawl - political interference - how to have free global market and environmental responsibility - protecting our tenuous drinking water supplies - maintaining wild lands for the protection of other species - developing programs over the near term that won't compromise our efforts in the long term - maintaining and improving wastewater treatment facilities in the Caribbean - directing our limited resources at real rather than perceived risks - not letting down our guard - complacency - educating the public.

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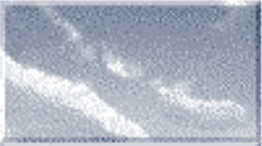





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